6. A distinct role for Panchayati Raj Institutions in implementation, monitoring and review of the Watershed Development Projects.

7. Provision of training for different levels of officials and field functionaries in various aspects of watershed development.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DPAP AND DDP

1. Additional districts and blocks have been identified for coverage under DPAP and DDP in accordance with the criteria suggested by the Hanumantha Rao Committee. From 1995-96 onwards, the total number of districts and blocks under DPAP would increase from 96 and 627 to 149 and 945 respectively. Similarly, the number of districts and blocks and DDP would be 36 and 227 respectively as against the earlier coverage of 21 districts and 131 blocks.

2. A new set of common guidelines for watershed development in DPAP, DDP and Wasteland areas have already been issued to all concerned State Governments. In addition, the guidelines envisage utilisation of 50% JRY-I and EAS funds as well for watershed development.

3. Training Programme on watershed development for district level officers viz, Collectors, Project Directors (DRDA)/Chief Development Officers/Chief Executive Officers (ZP) have been started already in collaboration with the national Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad. The Institute will also conduct training programmes for trainers from identified institutions from the Programme States who in turn would train the field functionaries at various levels. For this purpose, all the States have been advised to identify suitable institutions and nominate trainers from these institutions to MANAGE for the Trainers Training Programme.

4. The States have been requested to take immediate steps to get the watershed development plans prepared to be taken up during 1995-96 in accordance with the new guidelines issued.

5. The States have been requested to constitute State Level Watershed Programme Implementation & Review Committee, District Watershed Development Advisory Committee and to select Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs) and villages for development of watershed projects.

6. DPAP and DDP allocations for 1995-96 have been made keeping in view the number of watershed projects likely to be taken up in different size-groups of programme blocks.

Weather Forecasting

*717. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Weather forecasting goes hi-tech" as reported in 'The Statesman' dated the 10th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have set up its latest equipments for forecasting weather in various Agricultural Universities for providing accurate weather forecasts;

(c) whether inspite of the use of the latest equipment, the weather forecasting department has failed to forecast the correct news about weather; and

(d) if so, what further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For medium range weather forecasting (3 days and beyond), numerical weather prediction techniques are used. For this purpose a Supercomputer and other facilities have been set up at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), New Delhi. State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are provided telecommunication facilities along with a personal computer to receive the forecast in real time from NCMRWF. Based on 3 day-forecast provided by NCMRWF, SAUs prepare agromet advisories for the use of the farmers.

(c) and (d) The short range operational weather forcasts issued daily by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) have been generally correct. The NCMRWF forecasts and the related advisories are presently in an experimental mode. On the basis of the feed-back, NCMRWF are progressively refining their technique for upgrading the forecast.

Low Progress in Family Planning

*718. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India lags behind many developing countries in Family Planning progress; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such a low progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) A statement showing the achievements of India's Family Welfare Programme is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below) There are some developing countries whose birth rate is higher than India's and there are some others where it is lower. However, each country's performance has to be seen in the context of its social, economic, political and cultural framework and are therefore not comparable.

Statement

Parameter and units	1951—1961	1993
Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	41.7*	28.7**
Death Rate (per 1000 population)	22.8*	9.3**
Total Fertility rate	5.97*	3.6$
(Infant Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	146*	74**
Couple Protection Rate (percent)	10.4† (1970-71)	45.4† (31-3-94)
Cumulative Number of births averted (in million)	0.04†	168.78† (31-3-94)

Note

* Census of 1961

** Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 1993

$ Sample Registration Survey (SRS), 1992

† Programme statistics/estimates.